



“The Social Life of MRE”

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Marine Renewables in Cape Breton? The People Speak

This presentation provides an overview of the marine renewable energy Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) consultation and engagement program undertaken in Cape Breton. The SEA engagement process was developed to obtain opinions, comments, issues or concerns and recommendations from stakeholders, the Mi’kmaq and community members. The resulting community-based information served as input into the SEA for the Cape Breton Coastal Region and the Bras d’Or Lakes and assisted in identifying potential impacts resulting from future development of marine renewable technologies on communities and Nova Scotia’s offshore and coastal environment.

The focus of the engagement scope of work was to establish and convene Stakeholder Roundtable sessions, conduct community and Mi’kmaq engagement sessions, and support other tools for gathering input. This included three meetings of a Stakeholder Roundtable, two meetings with the Mi’kmaq Community and four community open houses in both coastal and Bras d’Or locations between May and October 2013. In addition, access was provided to both online and hard copy surveys. Input received during the engagement program was compiled into a Community Response Report and included in the SEA report.

The diverse membership of the Roundtable brought together a well balanced mix of relevant skills and experience further enriched by inputs received from the strong participation of the Mi’kmaq Community and from other interested community members. The process revealed a wide range of opinions on a variety of topics and highlighted a number of key themes, broadly held views and potential next steps.